



L.I. Alliance

Long Island Alliance for Peaceful Alternatives

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Executive Director

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Dockets Management Branch [HFA-305]

Food and Drug Administration

5630 Fishers Lane, Rm. 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

July 14, 1999

Ref: Docket # 98N-1038 "Irradiation in the Production, Processing, and Handling of Food."

To Whom It May Concern:

I am the executive director of the *Long Island Alliance for Peaceful Alternatives*, a coalition of over twenty organizations, and am writing about an issue that greatly concerns me and my constituent organizations. We are opposed to the proposed Food and Drug Administration's rule allowing manufacturers to sell irradiated food without labeling.

Food treated with radiation **must continue to be clearly labeled** with a statement indicating that radiation was used, and the radura must be displayed prominently. Consumers have the express right to choose which foods they purchase and eat, and they have the right to know exactly what is in the food and how it was prepared.

Irradiation destroys vitamins, causes changes in sensory and spoilage qualities apparent to the consumer, creates a new class of unique radiolytic products that have never been tested for possible carcinogenic effects in humans, and creates new volumes of toxic radioactive waste from Cobalt-60 and Cesium.

Food irradiation has already been approved, so you **must demand that these foods be clearly labeled**.

I further request that all comments be placed on the Internet so the public can be informed.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

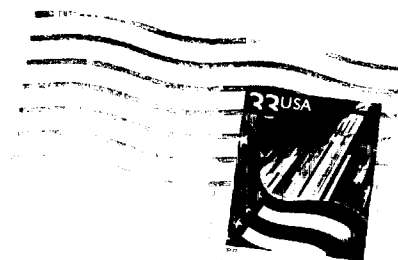
Robert B. Lepley
Executive Director

Long Island Alliance for Peaceful Alternatives

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